THE CROSBY VOICE

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY
Registered for posting as a periodical - Category B.

Issue No.11 November 1979

HELLO AGAIN,

Here we are again with our fourth and final major newsletter for 1979. I'm sorry that we aren't able to turn out these things more often but increasing work and social pressures eat more and more into my time.

Last month, as I'm sure most of you remember, marked the second anniversary of Bing's passing. Two years! I know that to a lot of us, it seems like only yesterday. What were you doing when you first heard the news? I know that I was asleep when the phone rang at 6 30 am dragging me out of bed to hear a reporter from the Melbourne Herald demanding to know whether I'd heard the news yet. "What news?" "That Bing Crosby had just died and what did I think about it?" Before the reader begins to think that the Herald contacts me for my opinion on matters of world interest on a regular basis, I think that it's worth pointing out that only a few weeks earlier I had sent the Herald, amongst other Melbourne newspapers, radio and TV stations, a note informing them of the formation of this society. So I guess that therefore, under the circumstances, I would have been one of the most likely people to ring for comment.

Anyway, I mumbled some remark or other and stumbled back to bed, not sure that I had actually heard the news that so many of us had half-expected for the past few years after Bing's series of illnesses in that time.

I remember one of my first comments to the Herald was that the society would definitely continue, not being quite sure in my own mind just how this would be carried out. Well, here we are two years later, a little older and a little wiser, and through the reality of this newsletter, you know that the society is still with us.

I can't say that they've been really easy years. Most of the members of your Executive Committee have had little experience in forming, let alone running, a society such as ours. To be perfectly honest, the results of our labours have, at times, left much to be desired.

Hopefully, we are learning as we go along, and in particular, we are learing what you as a member, want from the society. A little later in this newsletter, you'll read of our plans for 1980.

I would like to take the opportunity at this time, to make an official apology to member Ken Henderson who, due to a careless remark on my part at the recent A.G.M., we have inadvertantly maligned. Ken, as most of you know, is the owner of the Bentleigh Sewing and Record Centre and has, for some time, supplied members of this Society, Crosby LP's at reduced prices. To the best of my knowledge, this service is still offered to members and we are happy to publicize it.

Speaking of Crosby records, it's interesting that two years after Bing's death, there are more releases available than for a long time; more than 50 LP's, and this covers commercial issues only. Pirate LP's are something else again. Elsewhere in the newsletter, we publish an up-to-date listing of commercial issues currently on sale in town.

Also in this issue, we conclude the serialization of the 1932 article "I Surrender Dear", feature an article on Kathryn Crosby from the Women's Weekly and publish several photo pages which we hope will be of interest to you.

Let's start off, as always, with news of Future Functions.

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FUTURE FUNCTIONS

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SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 18TH - BARBECUE AT HEALESVILLE

Amongst our most successful functions are our regular barbecues. Once again, Ken Orren has kindly offered to make available his Healesville home for this purpose and a map is included with this newsletter showing you how to get there. The address is Lot 2, Mt Riddell Rd, and should you get lost, Ken's phone number is (059) 62 5556. Details of what time, cost, etc follow on the next page.

Time: 11.00 am - 7.00 pm.

Cost: $2.50 per head (members)
$3.00 per head (non-members)

(Members, please bring your membership card as identification. If you have misplaced your card, please ring Bob Machliss. a.h. 523 9263)

We Supply: All meat
Bread
Sweets

You Supply: Drinks
Salads

(We feel that this is fairer than charging members who don't drink alcohol or prefer not to drink when they drive these days.)

During the day we will be featuring auctions of Crosby records plus memorial envelopes from both the USA and Spain featuring photographs of Bing on the front. There will also be a lucky wheel with prizes of Crosby records, etc for winners.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CLUB. COME ALONG AND BRING THE FAMILY. IT SHOULD BE A GREAT DAY. ASK ANYONE WHO ATTENDED OUR LAST BARBECUE EARLIER THIS YEAR.

N.B. Late last year, we were caught out when a petrol strike made it impossible for members to drive all the way to Healesville. In the unlikely event of history repeating itself, please assume therefore that the barbecue will be cancelled!

MONDAY DECEMBER 3RD - MUSIC EVENING 8.00 PM START

Our final function for 1979 will be another music evening at the Mobil Centre Theatrette. Address, once again, is 2 City Road, South Melbourne - round the back of the Art Centre Theatre under construction.

This will be the first music evening arranged by the new sub-committee run by Bill Bennett, Ken Orren, Adrian Fowler and Les Saynor. The boys should put together a first rate presentation, so don't miss it!

NEXT YEAR - REGULAR MEETINGS - ALL THE DATES

Once again, we have booked the Mobil Centre Theatrette for the first Monday in every second month for our regular meetings. Other dates will no doubt be added during the year, but enter these in your diary now:

FEB 4 APR 7 JUN 2 AUG 4 OCT 6 DEC 1

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PAST FUNCTIONS

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MONDAY AUGUST 6TH - MUSIC EVENING

Another pleasant evening of Crosby music was heard on Monday August 6th at a music evening attended by the usual 30 or so regulars.

First speaker was Thelma Wood who featured a taped programme of Crosby music from the 1950's and 60's which also included a couple of examples of the Crosby art from the late 30's and early 40's. Once again it showed that Bing at any stage, whether his voice was at its peak or not, is always pleasant to listen to.

Thelma was followed by Jack Larkins who drew on radio material to present the jazz side of Bing's singing. Supporting Bing on this occasion were such great artists as Joe Venuti and Red Nichols.

Finally, we had the regular music quiz, conducted on this occasion by Geoff Orr. Members of the audience were required to take the first letter from titles of a number of Crosby songs and use them to spell the title of one of Bing's films. The correct answer: "EAST SIDE OF HEAVEN".

SATURDAY SEPT. 9 - DINNER DANCE - CANCELLED.

To the great disappointment and disgust of all concerned in the organization of our Dinner Dance, particularly Thelma Wood who devoted a great deal of time and effort to its arranging, this function was cancelled at the last minute, due to lack of support by members. It would seem

that the membership is simply not interested in this type of function. Whether or not we ever attempt this kind of thing in the future will have to be seen. At the moment however, it is extremely unlikely.

MONDAY OCTOBER 1ST - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Our second annual AGM went well with close to 50 members attending. The President's Report for 1979 follows this Past Functions feature, as does the Treasurer's Report. A full write up of the business discussed will appear at a later date.

In addition to the business of the evening, three short films were screened which were very well received.

These were: DREAM HOUSE - the complete print of Bing's 1931 Mack Sennett short.

BAD MEDICINE - A strange mid-30's short featuring Gene Austin as the singer at a travelling medicine show. Good songs.

BIG BROADCAST OF 1932 - HIGHTLIGHTS

All the musical numbers from Bing's feature film debut. Great entertainment.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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The year just ended has been a year of mixed fortunes for the Victorian Bing Crosby Society. The highlight of the year was, undoubtedly the screening of the film "King of Jazz". This rare and unusual 1930 musical which marked Bing's film debut had not been seen in Asutralia for many years. Thanks to the efforts of members Ken Henderson and Geoff Orr, we were able to purchase a 16mm print of the film and screen it on two successive Sundays at the Camberwell Civic Centre.

Once again, thanks must go to Geoff Orr who was responsible for organizing not only the screenings, but also the live musical programme that accompanied them.

Unfortunately, whilst an artistic success, these screenings were not a financial one. King of Jazz cost the society close to $1000 to purchase and it had been hoped to recoup the cost from the two public screenings. This did not happen due to the fact that we, and as President, I must take full responsibility for this, allowed the costs associated with both evenings to get totally out of hand. When coupled to the fact that the numbers attending both evening were not as high as expected, we were lucky to just break even on costs. In other words, we ended up back we started. This fact would have been bad enough in itself; however it was compounded by the fact that the total sum involved had been loaned to us by Thelma Wood. Half the amount owing has since been repaid from club funds, but the second half still remains outstanding to this day, a matter of great concern to all of us.

For a while, it was hoped to recover this amount by hiring out the film; but there would appear to be little interest in the community in doing so.

Therefore, earlier this year, the decision was taken to sell the film, and at the moment we are endeavouring to do just this. If any members know of any potential buyers, both is Australia or overseas, we would appreciate hearing from them.

Earlier this year, the decision was made to transfer all meetings including film screenings to the Mobil Theatrette and Monday evenings. The reason for doing this was purely financial. Initally, the Collingwood Centre cost use just $10 to hire for an afternoon. This cost has since risen to $30 which made it uneconomical for us to remain there, especially since the Mobil Theatrette comes to us without cost from Mobil. We realize that this fact makes it impossible for some members to attend film screenings, but we simply cannot afford the cost of film hire plus theatre hire, even with the charging of a modest entry fee.

In the year just passed, we offered members a variety of functions ranging from bi-monthly musical evenings to film evenings to various social functions. Of the last named,

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The Seattle Times
Monday, August 6, 1979

Tribute to a man who

by DON DUNCAN
Times staff reporter

The girls didn't shriek or moan when he grabbed a microphone. Not the way they did for Sinatra, Presley or The Beatles.

Nobody ever said he was competition in the looks department for Gable, Grant or Hudson.

But they never wrote a popular song he couldn't sing, and the radio deejays couldn't handle Christmas without him.

Two years after his death in Spain, Bing Crosby inspires none of the frenzied cultism associated with the passing of young rock singers or Hollywood stars in their prime.

After all, he was 74.

But there are several clubs and societies, here and abroad, to honor the memory of the man whose copper-hued tones introduced crooning to America, whose erudite vocabulary and casual, pipe-puffing manner made him nice to have around — in films, on radio, on records or swatting a golf ball, his other love besides singing.

The Bing Crosby Historical Society, founded earlier this year in Crosby's birthplace, Tacoma, has acquired office space on the fourth floor of Tacoma's Old City Hall.

A BRONZE plaque has been placed on the two-story frame house, 1112 N. J St., in which Harry Lillis Crosby uttered his first cries.

Ken Twiss, a retired restaurant chef, is the prime mover behind the society and its first president.

The society's office has photographs of Bing with Frank Sinatra, Phil Harris, Bob Hope, Perry Como, Sean Connery and studio stagehands.

It has albums of some of the 4,000 songs that Bing recorded. Twiss gave the Tacoma Public Library "almost a complete collection" of Crosby's 78 r.p.m. recordings in 1953. Disk jockeys frequently borrow them.

Among the names on the historical society's freshly minted letterhead is Vera Lynn, whose singing in World War II kept up the spirits of the British just as Bing's singing did for the United States.

There are framed letters from Buckingham Palace (the Queen saw Bing at the Palladium) and from Kathryn Crosby, wife of the late singer. Mrs. Crosby wrote:

"I don't believe Bing ever been in Tacoma, but Bing spoke about it so fondly. Now he'll be coming home in a very real sense."

The society's first banquet, earlier this year, attracted about 100 guests, many coming from other states, to view old Crosby movies and sing along with Al Rinker, a member of the original Rhythm Boys group that started Crosby's showbusiness career.

Twiss is "almost certain" that Donald O'Connor will make an appearance at the second banquet, next May, which will be preceded by an all-day Crosby film festival.

There also are plans to bring in tour

was nice to have around

groups from Europe to take part in the commemorative and then to see America.

"We're even thinking about a golf tournament in Bing's name," Twiss said. "But we haven't nailed anything down yet."

Twiss turned up the volume on the tape playing off in a corner.

"Yes sir, that's my baby . . ." Unmistakably Bing, in his swinging singing voice.

A BOOK OF Crosby movies was on a table. The "Road" pictures with Hope and Dorothy Lamour; "High Society," with Louie Armstrong, Sinatra and Grace Kelly; "Going My Way," his Academy Award winner, with Barry Fitzgerald.

Bing with Mary Martin, Carole Lombard, Joan Bennett, Fred Astaire, Dean Martin.

"Every time it rains it rains pennies from heaven . . ."

"There were six road pictures," Twiss said. "Road to Singapore, Zanzibar, Morocco, Utopia, Bali and Hong Kong."

Crosby buffs are trivia experts, too.

"My favorite Bing recording is 'Just One Word of Consolation,'" Twiss said. "It's the first record I ever bought. A beautiful ballad, really, but it sold only a few thousand copies."

"Don't blame me . . ." Bing was off on another song.

"They're going to dedicate a statue of Bing at Gonzaga University next year," Twiss said. He showed a photograph of the statue — Crosby, smoking a pipe, in a casual pose.

The record jackets hinted at Crosby's endurance and the many band leaders and singers who accompanied him.

Paul Whiteman, Victor Young, Lennie Hayton, Jimmie Grier, John Scott Trotter, Bob Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, the Andrews Sisters, the Boswell Sisters, Mary Martin, Armstrong.

"It must have been moonglow . . ."

"One of his best," Twiss said. "The next one is a Cole Porter song."

"You're the tops . . . you're the Mona Lisa . . ."

"They don't write lyrics that good anymore," Twiss said. He got no argument.

"OUR SOCIETY isn't in competition with any of the others," Twiss said. "We complement each other."

The others:

The Bing Crosby Pictorial Society, devoted to photographs, and the International Crosby Association, both in England; the Bing Crosby Victorian Society, Melbourne, Australia, and Club Crosby, in San Mateo, Calif. The latter puts out a magazine of Crosbyana four times a year.

Twiss recently acquired about 50 hours of taped Crosby interviews. He hasn't had time to listen to all of them. Getting the office opened took time. Having the telephone company mistakenly assign the Milwaukee Road telephone number was a bit of a bother.

"Nice work if you can get it . . ."

Bing was in good voice. Twiss never raised his.

The society's office is a sedate tribute to a man who sounded in real life the way you always thought you sounded in the shower.

the barbecue at Ken Orren's house in February attracted good crowds. A projected dinner at Bing's Restaurant had to be cancelled due to lack of support, as did this years dinner dance.

By comparison, two film evenings featuring a re-screening of King of Jazz and We're Not Dressing both attracted large audiences. I think that the lesson from this is clear. Movies, and movies not usually seen, are what the membership wants. So in 1980, we will endeavour to bring you more films featuring Bing. Obviously, the supply of such films is limited, so to spread out our meagre supply, we will also be screening television specials such as 'Bing Crosby - his life and legend'. To do this, we may hire a special video projector which will allow us to project TV images on a special 6 foot wide screen. Alternating with our film evenings will be our music evenings which are considered successful enough to be worth persevering with.

Not everything that happened last year was on the black side. We were able to purchase a limited quantity of special souvenir discs from the Bing Crosby Historical Society. These discs were snapped up quickly by members. In addition, we happily co-operated with the Sinatra Society of Australia in the pressing of a special LP featuring two 1954 radio shows featuring Bing and Sinatra. The last edition of our newsletter saw a new and greatly improved presentation, thanks once again to the Sinatra society.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank two members of the committee who have given much of their time and effort to the society in the past year. They are Thelma Wood whose contributions as both treasurer and organizer of a variety of functions have been been an enormous help and without whom I could not have managed; and Ken Orren, who until recently, single-handedly printed the newsletter for us at his office after hours.

This society was initially formed to help promote a greater understanding of Bing Crosby and his enormous contribution to popular music. After his passing, the constitution was amended to include keeping his memory alive.

Hopefully, in some small way, we have done so in the past year. With your help, we will continue to do so in the following year. Thank you.

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ELECTION RESULTS
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The primary function of an AGM is, of course, to elect office bearers for the coming year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Adrian Fowler for his help and support over the past two years; Adrian has stepped down from the committee due to pressures of work and social life. His place has been taken on the committee by Tommy Northrope who was elected unopposed. Welcome Tommy. We know that you'll be an enormous assett to the group who run the group.

The new committee:

President:	Bob Machliss
Vice President:	Ken Orren
Treasurer:	Thelma Wood
Secretary:	Jim McManus
Others:	Tommy Northrope
	Bill Bennett
	Les Saynor
	Geoff Orr

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TREASURER'S REPORT
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CREDITS

BROUGHT FORWARD FROM 1978	$412.80
FUNDS COLLECTED & RAFFLE	142.57
MEMBERSHIP	10.00
INTEREST	7.00
MEMBERSHIP	16.00
MEMBERSHIP	24.00
FUNDS COLLECTED	40.00

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FUNDS, FILM NIGHT & RAFFLE	$102.00
INTEREST	4.63
INTEREST	4.87
FILM NIGHT & RECORDS	232.00
FUNDS & RECORDS	140.50
FILM NIGHT & RECORDS	72.00
FUNDS COLLECTED	277.00
FUNDS COLLECTED	264.60
	$1749.97

DEBITS

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS	$17.20
AUDREY EVANS PHONE & POSTAGE	6.00
28/11/78 HALF PAYMENT TO THELMA WOOD FOR KING OF JAZZ FILM	450.00
POSTAGE & FILM HIRE	32.28
NEWSLETTER & POSTAGE	15.00
FILM HIRE	41.20
R MACHLISS RECORD & POSTAGE	24.60
DEPOSIT FOR GOLDEN SAND DINNER DANCE (FORFEITED)	100.00
QUIZ PRIZE	2.00
POSTAGE	15.30
R MACHLISS RECORD	4.35
G YOUNG FILM HIRE	40.00
ENVELOPES & PRINTING	160.00
STENCILS	42.21
QUICK STICK LABELS	28.70
NEWSLETTER	15.20
SINATRA SOCIETY PRINTING	35.30
SINATRA SOCIETY RECORDS	650.00
	$1679.34

$1749.97 CREDIT
$1679.34 DEBIT

$70.63 IN HAND GENERAL ACCOUNT
$160.00 SOCIAL CLUB ACCOUNT

$230.63 TOTAL IN HAND

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RECORD NEWS

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SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ISSUE ON HAMMARD

Geoff Orr, who now works for Hammard Records, brings us great news of a special locally-issued Christmas LP featuring tracks taken from three of Bings Xmas LP's for MCA: "Merry Christmas", "That Christmas Feeling" and "A Christmas Sing around the world with Bing". The new LP is entitled "Don't you know it's Christmas" (Hammard HAM 042) and is being heavily promoted on TV for the coming festive season. Good news is that courtesy of Geoff, the LP will be available to club members at 25% OFF regular prices.
If you would like to reserve a copy, write to us now:
PO Box 422 South Melbourne 3205.

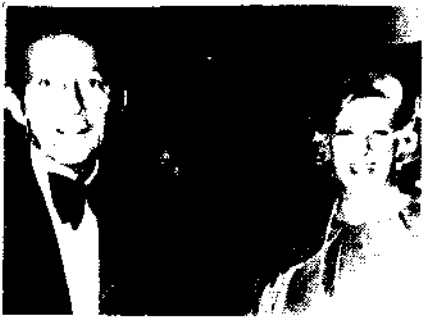
More good news is that because we were able to help Hammard by lending them photographs for the cover, the Society has been rewarded with a mention in the credits. Hopefully, this will bring us a few new members.

Buy this record, if not for yourself, then to send friends overseas. If sales are good, then the chances are also good that Hammard will issue future Crosby LP's.

JAPANESE ISSUES

I'm also happy to be able to tell you that we now have a contact in Japan who is prepared to supply Japanese LP's for us. Currently on the way to Australia are two sets of the highly sought after "How the West was won" double album plus one copy of "White Christmas" (the soundtrack album from Bing's 1956 movie - also a rare one).

To be fair to all those who want copies, we have decided on the following action. Those who would like one or the other (but not both - don't be greedy), please drop us a line. All the names will be put into a hat and the lucky three drawn out will be given first opportunity to buy the records. The cost will be $12 (How the West was won) and $6 (White Christmas) which is considerably less than if you had the records sent out from Japan yourself.



Radio Bing with the stereo added

WIN BING!

Festival Records has released an album which chronicles over 60 minutes of radio broadcasts by Bing Crosby between 1946 and 1954.

The album is called **The Golden Age Of American Radio Starring Bing Crosby and Includes guest stars like the Andrews Sisters, Judy Garland, The Mills Brothers, Rosemary Clooney, Maurice Chevalier, Peggy Lee and Bob Hope.**

Musical highlights include For Me And My Gal, Lazy River, Lullaby Of Broadway, Paper Moon, You Go To My Head, Two To Tango, I Can Dream Can't I, You Belong To Me and On a Slow Boat to China.

With the compliments of Kerry Fitzgerald at Festival, we have six copies of the album to give away this week.

To win one, write and let me know what film Lullaby Of Broadway was written for, and the name of the singer pictured above with Bing.

Send your entries to Bing Crosby Competition, Chadstone Progress, P.O. Box 310, Moorabbin, 3189.

Songs Of A Lifetime (Philips, 6641944) — Modern stereo recordings of three dozen songs culled from the period 1954-1960, represent the title of this double album featuring the late Bing Crosby.

According to the cover notes, these performances, prepared for broadcast on his radio show, have never previously been released.

Charm is the word that describes this collection.

Bing recorded the songs privately with his regular backing group of the time, the Buddy Cole Quartet (full orchestral backings arranged by Pete Moore were incorporated nearly 20 years later).

Too numerous to list, a sample includes She's Funny That Way, Keepin' Out Of Mischief, Yes Sir That's My Baby and Aint Misbehavin'.

A CHADSTONE PROGRESS v

Lots of entries in last week's Bing Crosby competition but unfortunately, many of them were not correct.

Rosemary Clooney was the singer pictured with Bing and the song Lullaby Of Broadway was written for the film Golddiggers of 1935.

Winners of the Festival album, Golden Years Of American Radio were:

John Ratcliff (Bentleigh), Ruth Whyte (Chadstone), Venice Irving (Ashwood), Geoff Sharp (Glen Iris), Diane Fysh (Oakleigh) and Mrs L. Garwood

Several members have already told me that they would like to be considered for "How the west was won". These are: Raymond Soltan, Girvan Paterson, Shirley Naylor and Eric White. The records are due soon, so write now. The winning names will be drawn at our meeting of December 3rd.

OTHER JAPANESE ISSUES

There are currently around 30 Crosby LP's issued on Japanese labels. Many duplicate discs available here, but those that don't (or don't seem to) are:

Bingo Viejo	London GP 1087
The Best of Bing	MCA 9232/3
The greatest hits of B.C.	MCA 7017
The voice of Bing in the 1930's	MCA VIM-4013
Great Entertainer Series	MCA 9284/5/6
B.C. Sings songs by George Gershwin	MCA 3162

One of the problems with Japanese issues is that many, including How the West was won, have been withdrawn from sale. Copies are still to be found of some in record shops, and we have our Japanese contact looking for us, but we will have to be lucky to find any.

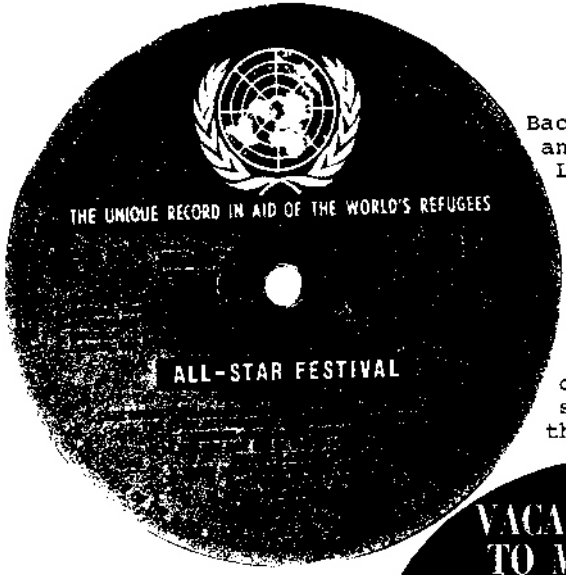
Still, if you would like copies of any of these issues, drop us a line and we will see what we can do. No promises, but we will do our best.

RECENT AUSTRALIAN ISSUES

* Songs of a lifetime - Philips - 6641944

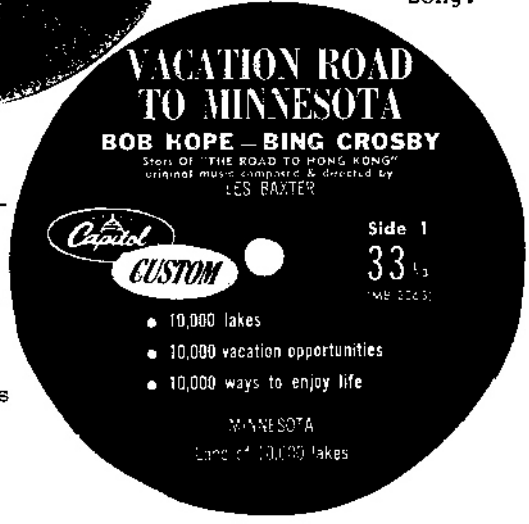
At last the record that has been the most eagerly awaited issue in the past two years, is out in Australia. And it has been worth the wait. Two LP's - 90 minutes of Crosby material you've probably never heard before. And the modern stereo orchestrations added to Buddy Cole's 1950's quartet in most instances work very well indeed. Everyone who has heard this set speaks enthusiastically of it. I urge you to buy it. I know that you will enjoy it. Hopefully, there will be future issues of radio material, similiarly orchestrated. Ken Barnes, the man who produced the LP, has the rights to hundreds more radio tracks. Keep your fingers crossed.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER



Back in 1960, Bing cut an album of duets with Louis Armstrong. One track, "Lazy River" was left off the LP and donated to the United Nations for use on the disc you see at left. Until recently, when the track became available commercially, this special LP contained the only issue of this song.

The original 12" 78 of "Lawd you made the night too long" has always been a tough item to find. In the early 1950's, this edited 10" 78 version of the song was issued in the USA on a special vinyl disc. The Boswell Sisters' version of the same song was omitted from the re-issue.



Shortly after they completed "Road to Hong Kong" in 1961, Bing and Bob Hope recorded this 7" promotional disc for the state of Minnesota. A tape of the record is available to members on one of the 'Collectors Items' cassettes in the Club Library.

It is common practice for record companies to provide radio stations with special pressings of their new discs for on-air promotion. At left we have a typical promotion disc, this one being for Bing's 1957 recording of "Seven nights a week/Man on fire".

More Australian Issues

* Bing Crosby Collection - Vol 3 - CBS CSP 100

Delighted to see this issue out in Australia so soon after its release in the USA. Like its two predecessors, Vol 3 features a selection of late 20's and early 30's material: My Angeline, Orange Blossom time, I'm sorry dear, Can't we talk it over, Waltzing in a dream, Let's try again, Someday we'll meet again, It's within your power, I'm playing with fire, Here is my heart, My love, I would if I could but I can't, Home on the range, Let's spend an evening at home.
Unlike the two earlier issues, the Australian album cover features all the original 78 labels that were deleted when the discs appeared here. They certainly are a great enhancement to the cover.

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AUSTRALIAN ISSUES - THE COMPLETE LIST.

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Following is a rundown of all commercial issues by Bing currently available in Australia. Where some albums are also issued by World Record Club, this is indicated as (Also WRC - issue number).

Songs of a lifetime - Philips - 6641944
That's what life is all about - United Artists -UA L35568
At my time of life - United Artists - UA L35889
London Palladium concert - United Artists - UA L45717/8
Feels Good, Feels right - London - SKLA 5261 (Also WRC 4707 as "When I leave the world behind")
Southern Memoir - London - SAHA 8489 (Also WRC 4385)
This is Bing Crosby - RCA - CPL 27107 (also WRC 0424)
Fancy meeting you here - RCA - VAC 10183
Bing with a beat - RCA - VAC 10185
High Society - Capitol - SW 750 (Also WRC 00557)
Musical AUtobiography - MCA - COPS 62395 (Also WRC 4708)
Best of Bing Crosby Radio Shows - Astor - GA 5023
Golden Age of Amercian Radio - United Artists - L36809
Legendary Performer - RCA - CPLI 2086

cont..../

Kathryn Crosby 'My life without Bing'

(SEE NEXT PAGE)

"MY LIFE WITHOUT BING" (Reprinted from Australian Women's Weekly - October 17th, 1979)

The huge wrought iron gates slowly slide open revealing the magnificent estate hidden at the end of a curving, 90 metre long, tree-lined driveway. The home sits atop a hill, its beautiful yet aged white and red brick baking in the afternoon sun. The grounds are shaded by nearby woods.

This is the posh San Francisco suburb of Hillsborough, where many of America's superrich reside and where Bing Crosby once lived. It is the home in which he and his wife Kathryn raised their three children.

It is now the place to which Kathryn retreats from the gruelling work schedule she finds so theraputic, allowing her to forget for a moment that she is a widow, facing life without her famous husband.

It had not been easy keeping this appointment. She is writing one book, collaborating on a second, and has just started a tour with a theatre road company.

"Work has been my therapy," she explains. "I'm in the final stages of my book, 'A Very Good Round - My LIfe With Bing.' I think it will show people who loved Bing, loved him personally and intimately as I did, that they were right. But maybe I knew him a little bit better than anyone else these last years.

"It's my story but with a lot of letters included - the way that Bing and I always communicated. He wrote beautifully and I think it's right to share these very beautiful things because Bing was always too modest or too cool to let go. He always wanted to write a book but said he was too lazy. He always praised my writing. I'm not betraying a confidence. He wanted me to write this."

The second book, told in photographs, is being done by former associates who knew Bing from earlier days. It will cover his entire life.

But it is acting that occupies most of Kathryn's time these days. Sometimes it is forgotten that this blonde and lithe woman met Bing on the lot at Paramount Pictures where she was a beauty contest winner and rising young actress. On her way to wardrobe one day she literally

stumbled upon the studios biggest star, Bing. Thus started an on and off romance - Kathryn the ingenue starlet and Bing, nearly 30 years her senior, recently widowed with four sons (one just a year younger than she).
On October 24, 1957, they eloped to Las Vegas where they were married in St Anne's Roman Catholic Church.
Acting is not new to Kathryn Crosby. "It's what I do best" says Kathryn, now 45. "And a few people seem to agree. It is always what I loved doing. Every Summer I would do a play in Summer Stock and Bing would come to see me. That was always a very romantic time."
She is currently touring with "Guys and Dolls" in which she stars with Hugh O'Brien. Kathryn is also involved in a group called the American Conservatory Theatre (ACT).
She is fiercely proud of her children and proud of herself as well for successfully fighting back the temptation to hold onto them after Bing's death.
"We all have to go our own ways," she says quietly. "Even before Bing's death I knew I would have to let the children go."
Bing's only daughter, Mary Frances, 20, recently married song writer Edmund Lottimer, and has joined the cast of the TV series "Dallas".
Harry Lillis Crosby III, 21, is aiming for a showbusiness career. He is in New York doing a movie called "Friday the 13th." In March he will start rehersals for a Broadway play, "Little lies."
Eighteen year old Nathaniel has just enrolled in the Miami University. "He is going to be a professional golfer, " says Kathryn. "Most children don't know what they want to be at 18, Nathaniel knew at nine. He plays scratch golf now, a handicap of zero."
Bing Crosby was a strict disciplinarian and, although a loving parent, he had definite ideas about the way to raise children. I asked Kathryn about some of those famous Crosby-isms that have filtered down over the years. "Bing was about 10 steps to the right of Louis XV," she grinned. "It wasn't a question of Mary Frances staying out until 2 am with a young man, it was whether Mary Frances should date at all! This, when she was in college.

TO BE CONTINUED.

(Australian release list continued from page 17)

Bing Crosby Collection - CBS - Vol 1 (CSP 058)
Vol 2 (CSP 059) and Vol 3 (CSP 100)
Crosby Classics - Axis - Vol 1 6384, Vol 2 6385,
Vol 3 6386
Tribute to Bing Crosby - EMI - Vol 1 (EMB 10389/2)
Vol 2 (EMB 10390/2)
That travelling two beat - Capitol - VMP 1039
Bing Crosby and Louis Armstrong - Capitol - VMP 1038
Great Country Hits - Capitol - VMP 10324
I wish you a merry Christmas - Capitol - ST 6899
Cool of the evening - MCA - COPS - 5114
When Irish eyes are smiling - MCA - D78262
Bing sings the great songs - MCA - MAPS 8016
Bing and Co - MCA - MAPS 8505
Bing sings songs of the islands - MCA - MAPS 8847
Best of Bing - MCA - MAPS 7306
Bing Crosby Sings - MCA - COPS 2300
Bing and the Andrews Sisters - MCA - COPS 7714
It's easy to remember - MCA - TVS 1005
Shillelaghs and Shamrocks - MCA - MAPS 1707
A nostalgic hour of Bing Crosby - MCA - MAPS 6328
Mr Crosby and Mr Mercer - MCA - COPS 7721
Pocketful of dreams - MCA - COPS 3759
That Christmas Feeling - MCA - COPS 3630
The Bing Crosby Story - Vol 1 - CBS - 2BP 220159
Old Masters - MCA - MAPS 5116 (3 lp set)
Two favourite stories - MCA - COPS 4225
My Golden Favourites - MCA - COPS 4235
Holiday in Europe - MCA - DL 74281
Merry Christmas - MCA - COPS 1011
The best of Bing - MCA - DXSB 7184
Bing Crosby's Greatest Hits - MCA - MC3031 (Also WRC 06440)
Crosby Classics - Harmony - HC 1048
Seasons - Summitt - 2383478
A Christmas sing around the world with Bing - MCA -
Don't you know it's Christmas - Hammard - HAM 042

A pretty impressive list you'll have to admit. You may have to order some titles, but all are available according to the record companies.

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BITS AND PIECES

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* Sadly we note the passing of Joe Bushkin, a man closely associated with Bing over the years and the band leader at Bing's very last commercial recording session on October 4th, 1977.

* The incredible Ethel Merman has just recorded a new LP of a selection of her old hits - all in DISCO beat! Called "The Ethel Merman Disco Album", it features such numbers as "No business like show business" and "Alexander's Ragtime Band". Appears to be selling quite well around town.

* Our old friend Neville Wragg of "Nostalgia Unlimited" fame has popped up on 3AW on Saturday afternoons, assisting Paul Cronin with a programmed entitled "Remember When". The show runs from two to five every Saturday and each week they review a different year or two with original records, old commercials,interviews, etc. Well worth tuning in next Saturday.

* Whilst on the subject of radio, the ABC has started to repeat the BBC series on Bing in Sentimental Journey on Saturday nights at 9.00 oclock. I don't know whether they'll have the two new episodes that were added to the series after Bing's death, but if you missed the series the first couple of times round, it's worth catching up with.

* The second anniversary of Bing's passing received only minimal treatment in the media. The Don Lane Show featured a ten minute tribute on Thursday 11th (including a few seconds from our King of Jazz print) which was quite nicely presented and Bert Newton featured his own radio treatment on Tuesday 16th. Apart from that, I didn't see too much about.

* Keep your eyes open for record sales at Brashes or Allens. In their October sale, "Old Masters" sold for $4.99, and "Bing & Co", "Bing Sings the Great Songs" and "Songs of the Islands" all sold for $2.99 each!

12 — Progress Press, Wed., September 5, 1979

At Bing's

NAME AND PRICES ARE NOSTALGIC

By Peg Morgan

What's the most famous place in California, US? Hollywood of course. And who was one of the dominating figures of Hollywood for more than a generation?

Before a few thousand readers start calling out a score or so of different names inspired by the late night movies on telly, I'll tell you the one I have in mind. Bing Crosby.

So that's why the California Motor Inn in Barkers Rd. Hawthorn called its restaurant "Bings's".

A large portrait of the old maestro is prominently displayed on one wall but it doesn't really dominate the restaurant.

Instead the first impression you get when you come through its separate entrance (with parking) is a lovely, soft, rosy glow, very cheering on a grey Melbourne evening.

Tiffany lampshades hang like red poppies above the tables, reflecting in section of foil wallpaper, and echoed in lighted candles. Weary travellers booking into the motel would have to feel they had reached some sort of oasis.

"Locals" too are showing their appreciation — like the party of 12 young people at a large square table in the centre of the room who were obviously enjoying the food, surroundings and atmosphere.

With all this, the prices are a pleasant surprise. Manager Alan Morgan (no relation but it's always nice to meet one of the "clan") said that with costs of everything rising, a decision was made to present a really pocket-pleasing menu without lowering in any way the standard of quality, service and presentation.

So a bistro type bill of fare was devised so skilfully that it's now possible to enjoy any one of some seven or eight main courses for under six dollars with soups, entrees, and desserts also at sensible prices.

Alan Morgan with Chef Natoli of Camberwell and waiter Graeme (both of whom I had met in a previous visits) agrees that the new menu is being really well received, and I'm not surprised.

To start my friend chose Oysters Kilpatrick and reported them to be excellent. Meanwhile I was savoring Spaghetti Marinara. The aroma was such that Val immediately ordered it as a main course.

Flavor, right through the spaghetti, fulfilled the promise of the "good nose" as the wine buffs would say and the dish was generously studded with scallops, prawns and pieces of lobster.

To follow I decided on Veal Saltimbucca — a tasty presentation of tender slices of veal topped with thin wafers of ham and spiced with cheese, accompanied by a very savory potato (not foil wrapped thank goodness) and a bowl of salad. It was so substantial that I insisted my friend have some to taste.

Other dishes of the night (the menu is changed often) included Sizzling Porterhouse

and Sizzling T-bone (you could hear them sizzling as they came to the tables) Chicken Parmigiana, Wiener Schnitzel, Roast of the day (which I believe is quite famous) and Whiting either grilled or fried.

At six dollars the whiting was the most expensive item. The chicken, T-bone, and the roast were only $5.50 and my Veal Saltimbocca, $5.80.

Entrees ranged from two dollars from Spaghetti Bolognese to $4.50 for the Marinara. Desserts averaged about $2.60.

List of sweets included Strawberry Pancake, Chocoloate Mousse and something I hadn't tasted before so decided to try — Heart of Cream on a traditional French dessert.

It's based on lightest cream cheese flavored with lemon and kirsch set in a small heart-shaped mould topped with strawberry sauce and, outlined on the plate with piped whipped cream and garnished with three or four fresh strawberries.

Now I know this sounds terribly rich and at first I winced at the sound of all the ingredients. Actually, it's very light with the lemon and kirsch counteracting all that creaminess.

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OVERSEAS RECORD RELEASES

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Five LP set of Bing's radio shows

From M.F.Productions Co, Inc. 295 Madison Ave, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA, comes news of a five LP set: "Bing Crosby - The Greatest Radio Broadcasts. The set costs US$24.98 and features ten ½ hour editions of Philco Radio Time. Some of the shows have been on LP before, but others haven't. The dates:

1946: Oct 23, Nov 27 and Dec 4

1947: Feb 26, March 5, March 26, April 2, May 21, Oct 1 and Nov 26.

Guest artists include: Judy Garland, Spike Jones, Jack Benny, Andrews Sisters, Maurice Chevalier, Peggy Lee, Gary Cooper, Al Jolson, Frankie Lane, John Charles Thomas and Jimmy Durante.

Single Christmas Shows LP

From the same company comes a single LP featuring Bing's Christmas broadcasts of December 14, 1949 and December 19, 1951. Title of the LP is "The Greatest Christmas Shows" and the cost is US$7.98. By the way, all the above are also available on cassette if preferred.

Other miscellaneous releases:

- Radiola 1100 Command Performance Victory Special (from August 15th, 1945)
- Tandem 1903 - Mail Call with Bing & Judy Garland
- Lamton 250 - Bing Crosby/Dorothy Lamour - Sweethearts of song.
- Fanfare 20-120 - Jazz 1929 style - featuring soundtrack excerpts from 'King of Jazz' plus two actual 1929 radio broadcasts featuring Red Nichols and his Big Band and the Jean Goldkette Orchesttra. All tracks are complete with original announcements!
- Legends 1000 - 4 Dorothy Lamour
- Legends 1000 - 5-6 Martha Raye
- GDOR 26-30 and 76-80 - Golden Days of Radio

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MORE BITS AND PIECES
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* I'm frequently asked whether we could publish a discography of all of Bing's records in these pages. The answer is "no", simply because it would take more than 40 quarto size pages to cover and also because an excellent discography already exists for sale in the UK. It is called the ICC MINI DISCOGRAPHY and is available from Reg Bristo, 7 Greenmeadow Close, Cwmbran, Gwent, NP44 4PJ. The cost, including postage, is a very reasonable Two Pounds. The mini-discography contains a complete listing of all of Bing's commercial records from his first to his last in chronological order. No label data is included but then what do you want for two pounds!

* Sid Bromley, Cnr Carawa and Camira Sts, St Lucis, QLD 4067 has for sale a copy of the rare Australian Panachord issue no: 11952 "I'M THROUGH WITH LOVE" by Owen Cornell. "Owen Cornell" as I'm sure you know, was a pseudonym for Bing Crosby andthe Panachords bearing this name are very uncommon. For the record, they were issued in Melbourne in 1931. Sid welcomes your offers for this collector's item.

* We're always happy tp give publicity to other groups such as ours in these pages; the hope being that they'll reciprocate in their magazines. Therfore, if you like jazz or big band music you might like to find out more about:

1. THE VICTORIAN JAZZ CLUB, Box 2421V, GPO Melbourne 3000
   A long established and well run organization. The General Organizer of the Club is Kevin Bolton. You might like to ring him on 211 9613 for any mpre information.

2. BIG BANDS INTERNATIONAL, PO Box 81, Creswick, Vic. 3363
   A group well established in the UK and USA which gives coverage to all the big bands. Newsletters are quarterly and contain all the latest news from both sides of the Atlantic. Membership is only $4 per year. The Australian Secretary of the group, Michael Gilchrist, is also a member of the Victorian Bing Crosby Society.

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LETTERS

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From Girvan Paterson, Oakleigh

Many thanks for the recent screening of "We're Not Dressing". When you haven't seen these early movies on TV for a long time, you tend to forget how really entertaining they are.

From Eric White, South Oakleigh

I was a little disappointed to read the news that "King of Jazz" is to be sold to a private collector. An alternative which was no doubt considered would have been for the society to have retained ownership of the print and to have allowed a body such as the Vincent Library to rent it out to interested groups. I am an ex-film society hack and am reasonably sure that many members of the Federation of Victorian Film Societies would be interested in hiring the movie, particularly if its existence were made known in the Federation's magazine. (Eric, would you believe that we did indeed offer the film through the Vincent Library earlier this year but have not had one single enquiry! B.M.)

From Ken Twiss, Tacoma, Washington

So many things are happening and so fast that it is hard to keep up. It is most satisfying to know that we seem to be on the right track. Next week, Gordon Wall will be in Tacoma, and on Oct 14, Frank Murphy is due here.
We are getting the office in some sort of shape. We have a nice display of records, sheet music, photos and have an album of snapshots for viewing. Next May, we plan to have a full day (Friday 2nd)of rare Bing Films. Saturday will be a banquet and entertainment. Although it is now too late for a charter flight, I do hope that there will be some Australians here for this occasion.

From Keith Gardiner, Warrnambool

I thought you might like to mention this in your newsletter. I am a bus driver. I drive from Warrnambool to Ballarat and return 5 days a week. Last February, the company

brought me a new bus which is fitted with a cassette deck. I haven't had one in a bus before, so I taped all my LP's of Bing's early records on cassette, and now I play them nearly every afternoon all the way back from Ballarat to home. Anybody travelling on said bus gets a steady diet of Bing, but so far, not one passenger has said to me that they knew who it was, or that they were a fan of Bing's, or that they enjoyed the old songs, but I guess that someboday will one day! (Well, who's got a kind word for Keith? I almost feel it my duty to take a bus trip one afternoon between Ballarat and Warrnambool and whip up some support for the old Bing bus! BM)

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ADVERTISEMENT - VIDEO EQUIPMENT

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DAVID MEWSE of the Sinatra Society is now in the business of supplying home video equipment. He offers members good prices on National, Sony and HMV equipment plus tapes to suit all models. For further details, contact David after hours on 795 2249 or write, 132 Gladstone Rd Dandenong 3175.

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For Sale: "The One and Only Bing" - Super 8 b/w sound
Back in the early 60's, this was an episode of a popular TV series "Hollywood and the Stars". Songs include: High up low down, Auf Weidersehn, Blue of the night, Pennies from Heaven, etc. Running time: 25 minutes. Cost: about Au$25 but for an exact figure, write to: COLLECTOR'S FILMS, 41 MITCHELL ST, LONDON EC1, ENGLAND.

MORE RECORD NEWS: Readers Digest in the USA have just issued an 8 lp set"BING SINGS AGAIN" featuring material from MCA, RCA, Capitol, radio shows, andfilm soundtracks.

DISCOUNTS ON NEW LPS FOR MEMBERS FROM:
The Bentleigh Sewing and Record Centre, 348 Centre Road, Bentleigh.
Also, Cunningham's Record Centre, 80 Church St, Brighton.

Just mention that you're a member of the Society when you buy.

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FROM OUT OF THE PAST - PHOTOPLAY - NOVEMBER 1932

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"I SURRENDER DEAR" by Lois Shirley (Pt.2)

Now it's ten-thirty or eleven o'clock. And no records made this morning So they rush down to the recording studio and "Just One More Chance" is canned for a thousand more homes. And look at the time. Twelve o'clock and no mail answered. Rush home where a secretary is pacing up and down looking thunderstorms at everyone. The form letters have been answered. Only the personal or really intelligent requests (usually begging for just one chance and not one more) await answering. If, for instance you write Mr Crosby that you would like to meet him, the secretary immediately snatches out form letter no.1,which says something about Mr Crosby will be glad to sing "Too Many Tears" next week. Or if you write you would like very much to have a picture of your idol, they immediately snatch out form letter no.2 which says something about Mr Crosby not being in the market for any more songs just now. And strange as it may seem, the autographed photo is included.

Letters from jealous husbands have them completely stumped. "Dear Mr Crosby, you are breaking up my home," they read. "My wife feeds me sardines at five o'clock in the afternoon so she can hear you make a noise at seven. What are you going to do about it?" Bing never has the slightest idea what to do about it. There is no form letter to cover a situation like that.

Two girls write from California. "Dear Mr Crosby, what are we going to do? Our dad is terribly mad at us because we won't let him eat celery at dinner, for he always makes so much noise with the celery, we can't hear your thrilling songs. And dad says unless we let him eat his celery in peace, we can't go to the club dance on Saturday night. Dear Mr Crosby, won't you tell us what to do, as we are simply cuhrazy about you and yet we can't miss the ducky club dance. And remember Mr Crosby (Bing), we surrender dear." And there is no form to cover that either.

And then someone glances at the clock - 12.45 and he's due for his first appearance at the Paramount Theatre at one. It's a mad dash in a taxi, horns honking, a rush, a scramble and just as the orchestra is playing the final chords of the tune that says "the gold of her hair crowns the blue of her eyes," Bing Crosby steps out to wild applause. A snatch of lunch and another performance later in the afternoon and then to the broadcasting station on the run for a bit of rehersal and Eastern broadcast at seven. Another wild taxi ride back for more shows at the theatre and, if he is making a Western broadcast, another dash back to the broadcasting station at eleven.
Sometimes, with traffic congestion, he'll arrive just as the orchestra has played the last note of his song and he'll begin his "surrendering dear" almost at the door. And several times they've shoved the printed words of his song in his hand as he entered and halway through "Too Many Tears" he'd feel unsure of a word, glance down at the pages and discover to his horror he was holding the words of "I'll Be Glad When You're Dead, You Rascal, You". Or in his rush, he'd find himself with a frog in his throat with no time to clear it and go through the entire song of "Paradise" expecting to get as far as "she takes me to -" and then croak like a frog or leap like a toad. It's awful.

There are no night clubs or gay times for a busy crooner. He must keep fit. In bed at twelve, he's awake at seven. The three days on the train to Hollywood with no "surrendering" to do were like heaven. And then back into the rush of making two shorts for Mack Sennett in two weeks. And immediately afterwards, at work, on the feature picture "The Big Broadcast," for Paramount.
He's the "Hi, there, boy" of Paramount. A glad hand from everyone. Posing for pictures with everyone. Eager and willing. As interested in this strange world of Hollywood as a kid. "Look," he'll say,"here comes Von Sternberg into the dining room with Dietrich. Gee, hope those two aren't spatting again." And he thinks Jackie Cooper is a simply swell actor. He licks butterscotch of his spoon like a kid and opens his package of cigarettes with his teeth. And gazes wistfully at a passing tray of roast beef and potatoes. But motion picture actors must keep slender.

So Bing eats lettuce. And never surrenders dear. The little waitress comes coyly over with a note. Bing opens it and his face lights up with a grin. "Look. It says that there's another fellow in this studio dining-room with big ears too. Gosh, I'll bet it's Gable. He's over here at Paramount making a picture." And like a kid, he's up gaping around for Clark. "Never knew there was anything the matter with my ears till I made this picture. And now look. All stuck back to my head with goo," he grins.

The minute "The Big Broadcast" was finished, he took himself himself off deep sea fishing with Lew Ayres. And was like a kid playing hookey. And now movies and vacations are over for another spell for Bing. It's back to radio, to personal appearances, record-making, rushing, singing.

It's nearing seven in the family living-room again. This time, dad sits alone in the next room with his prune whip and vanilla wafer. Music. A few words. And then a voice. Husky. Imploring. A you-chase-me-and-I'll-chase-you voice. Begging for "One Hour With You". While Mary and Alice and Edna sit tense and thrilled. Wondering and dreaming about their dream-idol of the radio and movies. Their superman hero. While behind the little black microphone stands a nice, ordinary young fellow like Jack Smith across the street. Not too bright or geniusy. But nice. And bewildered at what has happened. Just 28 and on top. With no place left to go. Knowing that tomorrow may bring another idol. Will, in fact. And for him - ?" But that's another day. Today he sings. And thousands of feminine hearts beat wildly. And surrender, dear. END.

Well, I hope that you enjoyed that glimpse of the past. Let me know if you did, and we'll try and find some more old articles to reprint. Or if you have something that might suit, lend it to us and we'll publish it.

Well, that's about it for another newsletter. I hope that you've enjoyed it. See you at the barbecue on Sunday 18th.

Bob Mackie